



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BEAUMONT MAN ADMITS TO METH CHARGES**

(Beaumont, Texas) A 32-year-old Beaumont man pleaded guilty today to drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **JOHN CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON** pleaded guilty to endangering human life while manufacturing methamphetamine.

According to information presented in court, on February 23, 2005, Beaumont Police were dispatched to a highly populated neighborhood in Beaumont's West End after residents reported a strong odor. Law enforcement officers determined the source of the odor was a large anhydrous ammonia leak coming from Hamilton's residence. Anhydrous ammonia is a common ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine and can be highly toxic when inhaled. Officers discovered a 150 pound tank of anhydrous ammonia at Hamilton's home, as well as numerous pieces of equipment and chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.

This case is part of the Methbusters initiative. Methbusters is an aggressive program implemented in the Eastern District of Texas to address the growing problem of methamphetamine trafficking in East Texas. United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced the initiative this summer as a joint venture with law enforcement to aggressively pursue and prosecute those involved with manufacturing and distributing the methamphetamine drug or the chemicals

used in its production.

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Hamilton entered his guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Thad Heartfield. Hamilton faces up to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000 and mandatory restitution for the cost of the cleanup of the clandestine methamphetamine lab. A sentencing date has not been set.

The case is being investigated by the Beaumont Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Beaumont Fire Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Englade.

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